

CLAIMS

2     The invention claimed is:

3     1.     A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:

4         a)     a collar;

5         b)     a leash; and

6         c)     a pair of retractors;

7         wherein said leash is retractably connected to said collar by said  
8         pair of retractors.

9     2.     The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said collar is slender;  
10         and

11         wherein said collar is elongated.

12     3.     The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said collar has a pair of  
13         ends;

14         wherein said collar has a ring; and

15         wherein said ring of said collar is attached to the first end of  
16         said collar by said first end of said collar passing therethrough,  
17         doubling back onto itself, and being affixed to itself.

18     4.     The tether as defined in claim 3, wherein the second end of said  
19         collar passes freely through said ring of said collar, doubles back  
20         onto itself, and is adjustably and replaceably affixed to itself by  
21         hook and loop fasteners; and

22         wherein said hook and loop fasteners of said collar are disposed on  
23         facing surfaces of said second end of said collar.

24     5.     The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said leash is slender;  
25         wherein said leash is elongated.

- 1     6.     The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said leash has a pair of  
2           ends; and  
3           wherein said pair of ends of said leash are operatively connected  
4           to said pair of retractors, respectively.
- 5     7.     The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said pair of retractors  
6           are diametrically opposed to each other; and  
7           wherein said pair of retractors are attached to said collar.
- 8     8.     The tether as defined in claim 6, wherein each retractor comprises  
9           a housing;  
10          wherein each retractor comprises a retracting mechanism;  
11          wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is operatively  
12          connected within said housing of an associated retractor; and  
13          wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is operatively  
14          connected to an associated end of said leash.
- 15    9.     The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said housing of each  
16          retractor is generally cylindrically-shaped; and  
17          wherein said housing of each retractor extends generally normally  
18          to said collar.
- 19    10.    The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said housing of each  
20          retractor has a slit;  
21          wherein said slit in said housing of each retractor extends axially  
22          therealong; and  
23          wherein said leash extends through said slit in said housing of each  
24          retractor.
- 25    11.    The tether as defined in claim 10, wherein said retracting mechanism  
26          of each retractor comprises an axle; and

- 1            wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor comprises a  
2            recoilable spring.
- 3        12.    The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said axle of said  
4            retracting mechanism of each retractor extends axially within said  
5            housing of said retracting mechanism of an associated retractor;  
6            wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each retractor  
7            extends rotatably within said housing of said retracting mechanism  
8            of said associated retractor; and  
9            wherein an end of said leash extends through said slit in said  
10           housing of said associated retractor and is attached to said axle  
11           of said retracting mechanism of said associated retractor.
- 12       13.    The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said recoilable spring  
13           of said retracting mechanism of each retractor operatively connects  
14           said axle of said retracting mechanism of an associated retractor  
15           to said housing of said associated retractor.
- 16       14.    The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein said recoilable spring  
17           of said retracting mechanism of each retractor allows said leash to  
18           freely recoil and be automatically wrapped around said axle of said  
19           retracting mechanism of an associated retractor when tension is  
20           removed from said leash.
- 21       15.    The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein each retractor comprises  
22           a ratchet mechanism.
- 23       16.    The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein said ratchet mechanism  
24           of each retractor operatively connects said axle of said retracting  
25           mechanism of an associated retractor to said housing of said  
26           associated retractor.

1     17.   The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein said ratchet mechanism  
2           of each retractor does not allow said leash to freely recoil and be  
3           automatically wrapped around said axle of said retracting mechanism  
4           of an associated retractor when tension is removed from said leash,  
5           but rather requires an initial tug on said leash and maintaining  
6           tension thereon to release said ratchet mechanism of said associated  
7           retractor to cause said leash to wrap around said axle of said  
8           retracting mechanism of said associated retractor.